

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 02669 041601Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02
/075 W

-----085432 041607Z /44

P R 041309Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4788
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2669

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, CD, LY
SUBJ: SITUATION IN CHAD

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DALLIER AND I COMPARED
NOTES ON CHADIAN SITUATION IN LONG CONVERSATION THIS
MORNING. HE BROUGHT ME UP-TO-DATE ON FRENCH
FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD TALKS WITH LIBYAN FOREIGN
MINISTER TRIKI AND ON HIS PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS
WITH PRESIDENT MALLOUM WHILE I IN TURN BROUGHT
HIM UP-TO-DATE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF OUR ATTEMPTS
TO ASSIST CHAD.

2. REGARDING THE GUIRINGAUD/TRIKI TALKS, IN
ADDITION TO FULL REPORT SIMILAR TO THAT OF EMBASSY
PARIS, AMBASSADOR DALLIER STRESSED THREE POINTS.
THE FIRST WAS THAT LIBYA MADE IT CLEAR IT
WOULD NOT ACCEPT O.A.U. NEGOTIATION ON THE CHADIAN/
LIBYAN FRONTIER QUESTION. IT CONSIDERS THIS A BILATERAL
MATTER TO BE SETTLED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
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AMBASSADOR DALLIER'S SECOND POINT WAS THAT THE
LIBYAN EXPLANATION OF THE FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS
WITH CHAD UP TO THE PRESENT MOMENT WAS COMPLETELY
TENDITIOUS. FINALLY, HE STATED THAT THE FRENCH
HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY TRIKI'S FREQUENT REFERENCES
TO THE HARRASSMENT OF LIBYANS IN CHAD BY THE CHADIAN
GOVERNMENT AND HAD PROMISED TO TRY AND ALLEVIATE

THIS SITUATION.

3. AS A RESULT OF THE FOREGOING, AMBASSADOR DALLIER HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CALL UPON PRESIDENT MALLOUM AND SUGGEST THAT HE MAKE SOME SORT OF CONCILIATORY GESTURES TOWARDS THE LIBYANS. AMBASSADOR DALLIER STATED THAT MALLOUM HAD RESPONDED WITH GREAT REASONABLENESS AND HAD POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE ANY TIME, ANY PLACE. HE FURTHER ADDED THAT, WHILE HE HAD TAKEN MEASURES AGAINST THE LIBYANS IN CHAD, THESE WERE NEITHER STERN NOR REPRESSIVE. HE POINTED OUT THE LIBYAN STATEMENT THAT THEIR DIPLOMATS WERE UNDER VIRTUAL HOUSE ARREST WAS SIMPLY NOT TRUE, THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON LIBYAN DIPLOMATS. (FYI: I CAN PERSONALLY ATTEST THAT LIBYAN AMBASSADOR ATTENDED RECEPTION AT MY RESIDENCE LAST EVENING AND HAS BEEN SEEN FREQUENTLY ELSEWHERE IN TOWN.) MALLOUM CONTINUED THAT WHILE LIBYAN BANK ITSELF HAD BEEN CLOSED, ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL DEPOSITOR, INCLUDING LIBYAN CITIZENS, TO WITHDRAW THEIR DEPOSIT AND PLACE IT IN ANOTHER BANK. ON THE MATTER OF THE LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTER, HE REMAINED FIRM, SAYING IT WAS A CENTER FOR SUBVERSION AND HE COULD NOT TOLERATE IT AT THE PRESENT MOMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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IN SPEAKING OF NEGOTIATIONS, MALLOUM STRESSED THAT HE HOPED TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FRONTIER AND NEGOTIATIONS ON RECONCILIATION SEPARATE. (FYI: HIS POSITION IS SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY TO HIS STATEMENT IN TUESDAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TWO ISSUES WERE TIED TOGETHER. HOWEVER, BOTH FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND I BELIEVE MALLOUM MISSPOKE HIMSELF ON TUESDAY UNDER THE UNUSUAL PRESSURE OF A PRESS CONFERENCE.)

4. FOLLOWING HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH MALLOUM, AMBASSADOR DALLIER REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA'S VISIT TO FRANCE WHICH PUT FORTH IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS THAT THE ONLY CHADIAN FRONTIER KNOWN BY FRANCE WAS THAT WHICH DELINEATED THE CHADIAN TERRITORY ON THE DATE OF ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1960. PRESIDENT MALLOUM PERSONALLY CALLED AMBASSADOR DALLIER WHEN HE HEARD THE STATEMENT ON THE RADIO TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE FOR PRESIDENT D'ESTAING'S FORTHRIGHT SUPPORT. BRADFORD

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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